

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-15, 17-20, 22-26 and 28-30 were pending at the time of the Final Office Action dated October 30, 2006.

Summary of Rejections in the Final Office Action dated October 30, 2006

The rejection of claims 17-20 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph was overcome in light of the presently pending claims.

Claims 1-3, 12, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over *Huang* in view of *Green*.

Claims 5, 6, 8-11 and 22-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over *Huang* in view of *Green* and *Cooperman*.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over *Huang* in view of *Green* and *Widjaja*.

Claims 17, 18, and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over *A. Huang* in view of *Green*.

Claims 19-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over *A. Huang* in view of *Green* and *Cooperman*.

Summary of Response

Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 12-14, 17, 19, and 22-25 are amended.

Claims 4, 7, 16, 21, and 27 were previously canceled.

Summary of Pending Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-15, 17-20, 22-26, and 28-30 are currently pending following this response.

Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the presently presented claims. Applicant suggests that a telephone interview can be helpful in passing this case to allowance.

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION DATED JANUARY 17, 2007

Applicant notes with appreciation Examiner's acknowledgement that the prior rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph have been met by the amendments reflected in the presently pending claims.

Examiner continues the rejections of the presently pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), citing *Green* (U.S. 5,687,324) in view of *Bianchini, Jr. et al* (U.S. 5,287,346) ("*Bianchini*") previously made of record by Applicant and newly cited *Hui and Arthurs* "A Broadband Packet Switch for Integrated Transport", IEEE, 1987 ("*Hui*"). Examiner does not assert that there is a new ground for rejection presented by the application of *Bianchini* or *Hui*, nor does Applicant agree that *Bianchini* or *Hui* have been properly applied as a basis for any rejection of the claims.

Applicant has amended all of the independent claims 1, 12, and 17 and dependent claims 5, 8, 19, and 22 to more clearly specify the operation of the non-recirculating sort trap stage of the application as suggested by the Examiner in the Advisory Action. Specifically, the independent claims have been amended to state that cells may be discarded by the non-recirculating sort-trap stage. Amendments to dependent claims 3, 13-14, and 23-25 were also made to add clarity and to correct cross references.

Applicant does not agree that *Green's* discussion of the background of the art teaches a non-recirculating sort trap stage as claimed by Applicant. However, in an effort to place this case into a condition for allowance, or to simplify the issues for an appeal, Applicant has

amended all of the independent and the dependent claims as specified above to more precisely specify the operation of the non-recirculating sort trap stage.

CONCLUSION

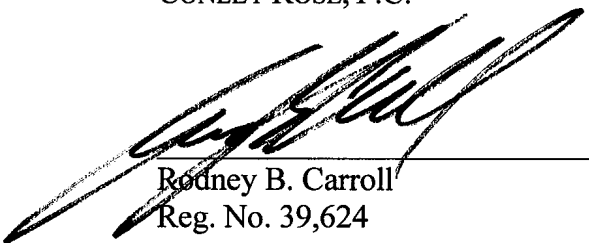
Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested by Applicant. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Final Office Action dated October 30, 2006 and Advisory Action dated January 12, 2007 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0765, Sprint. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: _____

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